

## Message Text

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R 162025Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12 FRENCH CABINET CHANGE --

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: PARIS 00940; PARIS 01104

1. FOLLOWING ARE BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARIES PREPARED ON

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MAJOR FIGURES INVOLVED IN JANUARY 12 CABINET CHANGE.

REMAINING INDIVIDUALS WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTEL.

2. JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS -- MEMBER OF A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY (HIS FATHER IS A FORMER AMBASSADOR TO BERLIN, ROME AND BONN), JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET, 47, HAS FOLLOWED A BRILLIANT, THREE-TRACK CAREER AS DIPLOMAT, POLITICIAN, AND BUSINESSMAN. AFTER STUDIES AT HARVARD IN THE EARLY 1950'S AND THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION, FROM WHICH HE GRADUATED NEAR THE TOP OF HIS CLASS, HE FILLED VARIOUS POSTS AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY AND PARTICIPATED IN NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO TREATIES ESTABLISHING THE COMMON MARKET AND EURATOM (1956-1958). HE THEN BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE EUROPEAN AFFAIRS BUREAU CHARGED WITH EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS (1958-1961) BEFORE TAKING ON VARIOUS AFRICAN POSTS (1964-1965). IN 1967 AND AGAIN IN 1968, HE RAN UNSUCCESSFULLY AS A CENTRIST CANDIDATE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. NAMED FIRST COUNSELOR AT TEHERAN IN 1969, HE REPORTEDLY TOOK LEAVE FROM THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1971 BECAUSE OF POLICY DIFFERENCES TO BECOME THE MANAGER OF A LARGE METALLURGY FIRM OWNED BY HIS FATHER-IN-LAW.

3. DURING THE 1960'S, FRANCOIS-PONCET, LIKE CURRENT FOREIGN MINISTER JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES, IS SAID TO HAVE FALLEN OUT OF FAVOR WITH THE GAULLIST LEADERSHIP BECAUSE OF HIS PRO-EUROPEAN LEANINGS. HIS APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS NOW BEING READ AS A SIGN OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INCREASING WILLINGNESS TO PLACE FRANCE IN THE FOREFRONT OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION EFFORTS. IN ADDITION TO HIS GENERAL EUROPEAN EXPERTISE, HE IS ALSO REGARDED AS AN EXPERT ON GERMANY; IN 1970 HE WROTE A DOCTORAL THESIS ON THAT COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION.

4. INITIAL REPORTS FROM QUAI CONTACTS PORTRAY HIS APPOINTMENT AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP. ONE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WILL BE FINDING OFFICE SPACE FOR A SECOND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. A QUAI SOURCE HAS SAID THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW STATE SECRETARY MAY BE GIVEN DUTIES WHICH INTER ALIA WILL INCLUDE THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. THIS WAS SUPPORTED IN JANUARY 16 LE MONDE ARTICLE WHICH SPECULATED THAT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA BUT WHICH WENT ON TO EXCLUDE SPECIAL DUTIES VIS-A-VIS EUROPE. AN AVID SPORTSMAN, (TENNIS, GOLF, SWIMMING) FRANCOIS PONCET CARRIES HIS AGE LIGHTLY AS DOES HIS WIFE, THE FORMER

MARIE-THERESE DE MITRY. THEY HAVE FIVE CHILDREN.

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R 162025Z JAN 75

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5. RAYMOND BARRE, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE -- WITH HIS

BACKGROUND AS PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, COUNSELOR OF THE BANK OF FRANCE, AND FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EC COMMISSION (1967-1972), RAYMOND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARRE, 52, WOULD APPEAR WELL SUITED TO HIS DUTIES AS MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE. BARRE IS KNOWN AS A STRONG, ALTHOUGH PRAGMATIC, "EUROPEANIST." MINISTER OF JUSTICE LECANUET HAS CITED HIS CABINET APPOINTMENT AS AN INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS IN ITS PLANS TO PROMOTE EUROPEAN UNION. ON THE BASIS OF BARRE'S PAST RECORD, OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION, CONFIRMED BY ELYSEE SOURCES, IS THAT HE WILL EXERCISE MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER HIS MINISTRY THAN DID HIS PREDECESSOR, NORBERT SEGARD. IN THIS CONNECTION, OUR SOURCES CITED FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY MATTERS WHICH, DURING SEGARD'S TENURE, WERE REPORTEDLY UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION OF FINANCE MINISTER FOURCADE. MOREOVER, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT GIVEN HIS BACKGROUND AND STATURE, HE WILL BECOME AN INFLUENTIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT ON FINANCIAL QUESTIONS.

6. FOLLOWING STUDIES IN LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, BARRE BECAME PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAEN (1950), BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS WHERE HE HAS HELD THE CHAIR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY SINCE 1963. IN 1959, BARRE WAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF CABINET FOR THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. ALTHOUGH HE HELD THESE DUTIES UNTIL 1962, HE REPORTEDLY DID NOT TAKE ON THE POLITICAL LEANINGS OF HIS GAULLIST MINISTER AND HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR HIS INDEPENDENT, PRAGMATIC POSITIONS ON A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING UK ENTRY INTO THE COMMON MARKET, PRICE OF GOLD, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AND SPECIAL DRAWINGS RIGHTS.

7. BARRE WAS A LEADER GRANTEE AND IS SAID TO BE WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS NOT HESITATED TO DISAGREE WITH CERTAIN US ECONOMIC MOVES, SUCH AS THE 1971 DOLLAR DEVALUATION. ON OCCASION, HE HAS ALSO CRITICIZED THE US FOR ALLEGEDLY "EXPORTING INFLATION." HIS MOST RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS THE IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH HE PLAYED, ALONG WITH GEORGE SHULTZ, IN SETTING UP THE 1975 RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT. BARRE, WHO IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO SONS, SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

8. PIERRE-CHRISTIAN TAITTINGER, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE INTERIOR -- BORN 50 YEARS AGO IN PARIS, TAITTINGER BECAME A MEMBER OF THE PARIS BAR IN 1947 FOLLOWING LAW STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS. IN 1953 HE WAS ELECTED TO THE PARIS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THAT BODY FROM 1962 UNTIL 1963. HE REMAINED WITH THE COUNCIL UNTIL 1971. IN 1968 HE SUCCESSFULLY RAN FOR THE SENATE AS A GAULLIST, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME A MEMBER OF THE SENATE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PARTY GROUP WHILE REMAINING A NOMINAL GAULLIST.

9. TAITTINGER IS SAID TO BE AN EXPERT ON PARISIAN AFFAIRS. IN 1974 HE HEADED A MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR-SPONSORED STUDY ON PARISIAN ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM AND AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SINCE MAY OF THAT YEAR, SHEPHERDED A BILL THROUGH THAT BODY WHICH EVENTUALLY BECAME THE REVISED GENERAL STATUTE FOR PARIS. ONE CHAPTER OF THAT STATUTE PROVIDES FOR AN ELECTED MAYOR -- A POSITION TO WHICH TAITTINGER IS RUMORED TO ASPIRE. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT HIS NEW DUTIES AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE INTERIOR WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE THE APPLICATION OF REFORMS STEMMING FROM THE PARIS STATUTE. HE IS THE BROTHER OF JEAN TAITTINGER, FORMER MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND MAYOR OF REIMS; HIS FATHER WAS A DEPUTY (PARIS).

10. JEAN-NOEL DE LIPKOWSKI, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COOPERATION -- DE LIPKOWSKI, 56, IS CONSIDERED A LEFT WING GAULLIST (IN 1956, HE RAN UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE POLITICAL GROUPING OF FRANCOIS MITTERRAND). ALTHOUGH A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF BOTH POMPI-DOU AND JOBERT, DE LIPKOWSKI HAS OFTEN TAKEN PRAGMATIC POSITIONS ON EUROPEAN UNITY AND ON OTHER ISSUES NOT ENTIRELY TO THE LIKING OF HIS GAULLIST MENTORS. NEVERTHELESS, HIS ABILITIES IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD HAVE LED TO HIS APPOINTMENT IN 1974 AS UDR NATIONAL DELEGATE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

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11. DE LIPKOWSKI (WHO IS A COUNT) HOLDS A DEGREE IN LAW AND A DIPLOMA FROM THE FREE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE. FOLLOWING SERVICE AS A PARATROOPER IN THE RESISTANCE, HE JOINED THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN 1945 AND WAS POSTED TO CHINA, SPAIN, TUNISIA AND MOROCCO. HE

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ENTERED POLITICS IN 1956 AS A DEPUTY, BUT WAS DEFEATED IN THE 1958 ELECTIONS AND REJOINED THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AS COUNSELOR IN BEIRUT. HE THEN WAS REELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHERE HE REMAINED FROM 1962 TO 1973. HE PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE 1960'S AND 1970'S AND WAS STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FROM 1968 TO 1972 AND AGAIN IN 1973-1974. INTERESTINGLY, IT WAS DURING THIS LATTER PERIOD, UNDER

FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT, THAT DE LIPKOWSKI WAS EFFICIENTLY IN CHARGE OF FRENCH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR AFRICA -- THE SAME DUTIES WHICH HE NOW HOLDS AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COOPERATION.

12. DE LIPKOWSKI HAS BEEN OPEN WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE FOUND HIM FRIENDLY, INTELLIGENT, AND A STOUT DEFENDER OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT POLICY. HE CAN BE ERRATIC, HOWEVER, AND HIS MERCURIAL TEMPERAMENT OCCASIONALLY TEMPTS HIM TO OVERSTATEMENT. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER NADINE LECQUET D'ORVAN AND HAS TWO CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

13. NORBERT SEGARD, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS -- NORBERT SEGARD, 53, HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE WITH THE Giscard Government. THE REASONS FOR HIS SWITCH IN RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH ON ITS FACE CONSTITUTES A DEMOTION, ARE UNCLEAR. ONE EXPLANATION IS THAT HIS NEW GOVERNMENT ROLE WILL ALLOW HIM TO STAY CLOSER TO HOME IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR A COMING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AIMED AT OUSTING LILLE DEPUTY/MAYOR PIERRE MAUROY. ANOTHER THEORY HAS IT THAT, WITH HIS SUPPOSED CLOSE TIES TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY, HE IS IN A POSITION TO HANDLE MORE ADROITLY THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, AYMAR ACHILLE-FOULD, THE ALLOCATIONS OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS OUT OF HIS MINISTRY'S BUDGET. AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, SEGARD APPARENTLY NEVER GAINED REAL CONTROL OVER THE POLICY AREA OF THE MINISTRY (THE DREE) WHICH CONTINUED TO REPORT TO THE FINANCE MINISTER. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS GIVEN GOOD MARKS FOR HIS VIGOROUS DIRECTION ON THE EXPORT PROMOTION AGENCY (CFCE).

14. PHYSICIST AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEER, SEGARD HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MADE HIS CAREER AS A PROFESSOR WITH POLITICAL AMBITIONS. ELECTED AS DEPUTY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NORD IN 1973, HE HOLDS A SEAT ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE UDR WHERE HE REPRESENTS THE GROUP FORMED AROUND MARIE-MADELEINE DIENESCH, ONE OF POMPIDOU'S GREY EMINENCES. SINCE 1962 SEGARD HAS BEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH SOCIETY FOR QUALITY CONTROL. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS FAIR ENGLISH.

15. JACQUES MEDECIN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TOURISM -- JACQUES MEDECIN, 48, IS SAID TO OWE HIS CABINET APPOINTMENT TO HIS SEPTEMBER 1975 SWITCH TO THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PARTY. MEDECIN PREVIOUSLY, AS A CENTRIST, HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN ORGANIZING PIEDS-NOIR SUPPORT FOR Giscard d'Estaing's 1974 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. NEVERTHELESS,

AS MAYOR OF NICE AND INDEFATIGABLE PROMOTER OF THAT CITY'S TOURIST INDUSTRY, MEDECIN WOULD APPEAR WELL QUALIFIED IN HIS NEW ROLE.

16. FOLLOWING SEVERAL YEARS WITH THE MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND JUSTICE IN THE EARLY 1950'S, MEDECIN TURNED TO JOURNALISM AND BECAME THE POLITICAL EDITOR OF PARIS-PRESSE AND LATER NICE-MATIN. HE THEN BECAME A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT FOR AURORE BEFORE BEING ELECTED CONSEILLER GENERAL FOR THE ALPES-MARITIMES DEPARTMENT IN 1961. IN 1966 HE WAS ELECTED MAYOR OF NICE, SUCCEEDING HIS FATHER WHO HAD HELD THE POSITION FOR OVER 30 YEARS. IN 1967 HE WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS A CENTRIST.

17. JUDGING FROM HIS YEARS IN NICE, MEDECIN WILL BE PARTIAL TO LARGE HOTEL AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. ONE SUCH MEDECIN PROJECT, WHICH WOULD HAVE OBSCURED THE FAMOUS PROMENADE DES ANGLAIS, HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF HEATED DEBATE IN NICE. MEDECIN, WHO SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, IS VERY OUTGOING AND PERSONABLE. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN.

18. ANDRE FOSSET, MINISTER FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE --

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A FORMER MEMBER OF THE RESISTANCE, ANDRE FOSSET, 57, BEGAN HIS POLITICAL CAREER IN 1945 AS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE PARIS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. FOLLOWING OTHER POSTS WITH THE PARIS GOVERNMENT, FOSSET WAS ELECTED TO THE SENATE IN 1958 WHERE HE CURRENTLY IS PRESIDENT OF  
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THAT BODY'S CENTRIST GROUP,

FOSSET IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF THE CENTER DEMOCRATIC PARTY. HAVING NO FORMAL EDUCATION, FOSSET IS DESCRIBED AS A ROUGH-MANNERED, BUT UNCOMPLICATED AND STRAIGHTFORWARD POLITICIAN. HIS INTERESTS IN THE SENATE INCLUDE THE MEDIA, AND ENERGY MATTERS PRIMARILY RELATED TO NUCLEAR POWER PLANT INSTALLATIONS. FOSSET IS MARRIED AND HAS FIVE CHILDREN.

19. JEAN-PIERRE SOISSON, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION -- PRIOR TO HIS PREVIOUS POSITION WITH THE GISCARD/CHIRAC GOVERNMENT AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR UNIVERSITIES, JEAN-PIERRE SOISSON, 39, HAD BEEN AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN DEPUTY. HE REMAINS MAYOR OF AUXERRE. AS AN ENA TRAINED TECHNOCRAT, SOISSON BEGAN HIS CAREER IN THE COUR DES COMPTES. HE THEN WAS NAMED TO SEVERAL TECHNICAL COUNSELOR POSITIONS UNDER YVON BOURGES (THEN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION) AND EDGAR FAURE (MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE). FIRST ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1968, SOISSON WAS ONE OF ONLY 50 DEPUTIES WINNING FIRST ROUND VICTORY IN THE 1973 ELECTIONS. IN 1969, SOISSON STOOD BY GISCARD IN OPPOSING

DE GAULLE'S REFERENDUM AND, PARTIALLY AS A RESULT, WAS  
GIVEN THE POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PARTY.

20. HE WAS A LEADER GRANTEE IN 1972 AND IS WELL KNOWN  
TO SEVERAL EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO DESCRIBE HIM AS EXTRE-  
MELY CAPABLE. HE IS AN ABLE ADMINISTRATOR AND REPORTEDLY  
SEES HIMSELF AS A FUTURE PRIME MINISTER. HIS NEW JOB AS  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WILL ALLOW  
EXTENSIVE TRAVEL THROUGHOUT FRANCE AND IS A SOURCE OF  
CONSIDERABLE PATRONAGE. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT  
SOISSON IS AN EXPERT ON LOCAL ELECTIONS. HIS TRAVELS  
SHOULD PROVE HELPFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT IN PREPARING  
FOR MUNICIPAL CONTESTS NOW SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MARCH.

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